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McNAMARA HINTS RUSSIA DEPLOYS ANTIMISSILE NET

Administration Will Probably
Urge Poseidon Production,
Pentagon Chief Reports

ARM IS BETTER/OFFENSE

New U.S. Submarine Missile
Could Surpass Polaris in
Penetrating Defenses

ROBERT B. SEMPLE JR.
Special to The New York Times
JOHNSON CITY, Tex., Nov.
20.—Defense Secretary Robert
S. McNamara said today there
was "considerable evidence"
that the Soviet Union was build-
ing and deploying an anti-ballis-
tic missile system, probably re-
quiring an increase in the
United States' offensive capa-
city.

The Secretary said that the
administration would probably
recommend to Congress that
the United States begin pro-
duction and deployment of the
Poseidon missile, a large sub-
marine-launched missile with
greater power than the Polaris
missile to penetrate sophisti-
cated defense systems.

In the past Mr. McNamara
has told Congress that the Rus-
sians were developing a missile
defense system and were ex-
pected to deploy it as soon as
it was perfected. His statement
today suggests that the John-
son Administration believes
such deployment is now taking
place.

Poseidon Launch Granted
In the defense budget sub-
mitted to Congress last Jan-
uary, Mr. McNamara asked,
and got, funds to develop the
Poseidon missile. He has now
recommended to the President
deployment of this missile as
counter to the Russian de-
fense system.

Mr. McNamara reported today
that no decision had yet been
made to deploy—that is, pro-
duce and locate at sites in the
United States—the controver-
sial Nike-X antimissile missile,
on which \$500-million has al-
ready been spent for research
and development.

Regarding the Poseidon Mr.
McNamara said that develop-
ment of the missile would re-
quire almost \$2-billion in Fed-
eral expenditures. He said its
deployment would cost "several
hundred millions."

66 Conference in Week
Among other things, deploy-
ment of the Poseidon would
mean complete re-engineering of
the firing tubes on this coun-
try's fleet of Polaris subma-
rines from which the missiles
would be launched if necessary.

The Secretary said that this
and other "refitting" changes
would cost "somewhat in ex-
cess" of 60 per cent of the initial
cost of the Polaris submarines.

Mr. McNamara flew to the
1200 Ranch this morning to con-
fer with President Johnson on
defense and budgetary matters.
This afternoon, he addressed
newsmen in the front yard of
the Johnson home before re-
turning to the capital.

Today marked Mr. Mc-
Namara's third extended con-
ference with the President in
the last week in preparation for
the supplemental military bud-
get requests for the present fiscal

MORI/CDE

AT DEFENSE PERIL

McNamara's Call for Improved Offense
May Be Designed to Forestall Pressure

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1
year and requests for the fiscal year 1968.

On the subject of United States antimissile missiles, Mr. McNamara said he has disagreed with Mr. Johnson the "possible deployment of such systems," but had concluded that "it is much too early to make a decision for deployment against the Chinese threat, and we have not arrived at a decision on any other deployment."

He did not, however, rule out the future deployment of the Nike X system against Soviet offensive missiles, adding that "we will continue our discussions on this subject for some weeks to come."

On the relationship between the Nike-X system and the Chinese threat, the Secretary said:

"The length of time required to deploy such a system is less than the length of time required for the Chinese Communists to develop nuclear weapons that conceivably could threaten this nation. Therefore, it is not timely at this time to make a decision to deploy such a system to defend against the Chinese Communist threat."

Mr. McNamara, coatless and relaxed in the warm Texas sun, also assured his listeners that development of an anti-ballistic missile system by the Soviet Union had not removed the United States' capacity to penetrate that country. He declared:

"There is absolutely no question about our capability of penetrating the Soviet defenses with both our missiles and our aircraft."

He said "there had been no question about that" during the last 15 years and "there is no question about it now when they are similarly trying to defend against intercontinental ballistic missiles."

In his opening remarks, the Secretary had indicated that the Soviet Union was building a new antimissile system. News-men then asked Mr. McNamara whether the Russians were in fact doing so.

"Yes," he replied. "I believe there is considerable evidence that they are."

"Is it an effective system?" asked one questioner.

"We Must Assume"

"I think you would have to ask them," he replied. But he added, "We must assume it is effective."

Asked when the Russians started deploying the system, he said he would "rather not try to approximate the date," but added unequivocally:

"They have started such development."

As a result, Mr. McNamara reported, "we recommended, and I believe will present to the Congress, a proposal to produce and deploy" the Poseidon offensive system.

He described the Poseidon as "a new missile for deployment at sea." Initial development work on the missile was begun under the budget for the current fiscal year, 1967. Greatly expanded funds, however, would be required to produce the missile and refit the Polaris submarines to accommodate it.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10—Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's disclosure that the United States now believes Russia probably is deploying a missile defense around the Soviet Union may be the opening round in an Administration effort to stave off potentially overwhelming Congressional pressure for the United States to follow

News Analysis
suit with its own advance systems of missile killers.

In making his announcement today at the LBJ Ranch in Texas, Mr. McNamara offered a far, immediate answer to the new strategic threat: a move to improve America's offense rather than its defense.

He recommended to the President, he said, the rapid replacement of the current breed of submarine-launched Polaris missiles with a much larger Poseidon missile. Poseidon would be able to carry roughly twice the payload of Polaris and thus could be jam-packed with a variety of penetration devices designed to fool the Soviet defenses and slip through to its target.

Not at All

While McNamara's statement did not rule out the development of a missile defense, it did rule out his remarks suggested another postponement of that decision.

In the past, he repeatedly has taken the position that even a widespread Nike-X system, costing upward of \$20-billion, would not prevent the Soviet Union, in an all-out attack from killing tens of millions of American citizens, and that such a defense against that threat therefore did not seem attractive.

A much cheaper, thinner Nike-X system has been proposed to protect the United States against a smaller, less sophisticated threat that the Chinese may one day pose.

Mr. McNamara has said, however, that since the Chinese Communists are not expected to have a large number of intercontinental ballistic missiles until about 1975, and since the Nike-X system would take only about six or seven years to deploy, a decision may also be deferred in terms of the Chinese threat.

Position Restated

Mr. McNamara repeated the essence of his position vis-a-vis the Chinese today. This suggests no change in the Administration's estimate of China's missile deployment timetable as a result of her recent testing of a medium range, atom-tipped missile.

Top Defense Department strategists are of mixed opinion about the necessary combination of offensive and defensive systems necessary to insure America's ability to deter a nuclear war or, if deterrence fails, to contend with it and survive.

All planners, military and

civilian, agree that the United States must put primary emphasis on assuring that even after absorbing a surprise attack, enough missiles will survive to wipe out the enemy.

As long as the Soviet Union is convinced that the United States retains this capability, the argument goes, it cannot rationally initiate a nuclear war and thereby risk national suicide.

In line with this reasoning, the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars building Minuteman missiles that are protected against attack in concrete and steel silos buried deep underground, and submarine-based Polaris missiles, which are protected against surprise attack by the ocean.

Looking toward the possibility of a Soviet missile defense, the Administration has over the last five years spent more than \$1-billion on a variety of hush-hush devices aimed at penetrating such defenses. Such devices may be installed on both land-based and sea-based missiles; the larger the missile, the more penetration aids it can carry.

Some Would Go Further

Many strategists, including the five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would go still further. They would deploy the Nike-X missile defense system to reduce damage in the United States should the unthinkable happen and nuclear war erupt, whether by design or accident. More than \$2-billion has been spent over the years developing the Nike-X system. It is supposed to work this way:

Its long-range radars would pick up enemy missiles many hundreds of miles distant and would guide Nike Zeus missiles to intercept them anywhere from 50 to 400 miles from the United States. If some missiles should slip through this net, they would be attacked by superfast Sprint missiles, which are designed to intercept at lower altitudes.

In preparing his new defense budget, for submission to Congress in January, Mr. McNamara is faced once again with the Nike-X problem. Some officials believe he still feels the time is not right for deployment.

But Congress showed its impatience this year when it appropriated nearly \$168-million more for Nike-X development than the Administration asked.

If Mr. McNamara had waited until Congress found out, through its own sources, that the Russians were likely putting in a comprehensive missile defense, a tremendous clamor might have developed for the United States to do likewise.

But, by taking the offensive, by announcing Soviet activity and demonstrating Administration resolve to deal with it with better offensive missiles, the clear war or, if deterrence fails, steam might be taken out of the drive for meeting defense with a better defense.

TIMKEN SAID TO BALK TORNADOES AND RAIN
A CHECK ON JOBS BIAS MOVE ACROSS SOUTH

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10

ATLANTA, Nov. 10 (UPI)—

AP—The Office of Federal Tort Claims and pouncing

Hollings Gains Top Seniority